

REMARKS**Overview**

This amendment accompanies the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 1-9 and 25-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance.

Summary of Examiner Interview

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the Examiner Interview of November 21, 2003. Examiner Tran and Supervisory Examiner Bella were present as well as the Applicant, Dr. Peter V. Boesen and the undersigned attorney, Jeffrey D. Harty. It was discussed that in claim 1, a single step was used for both invoking the input area and the graphical keyboard. It was discussed that claim 1 would be more clear if separate steps were used for invoking an input area and invoking a graphical keyboard area. It was also discussed as to the remaining claims, it should be clear that the graphic keyboard is linked with the program so that the keyboard always remains or that the keyboard is provided when needed by an input area. No agreement was reached with respect to patentability.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to provide for separate steps of "invoking an input area" and "invoking a graphical keyboard area." It is submitted that this amendment is consistent with that which was discussed in the Examiner Interview. The purpose of this amendment is to improve clarity of claim 1.

Claim 25 has also been amended to improve clarity by making explicit that the applicable keyboard is "linked to an input area" and that the input area and the graphical keyboard are separately invoked. Also, it was made clear that the graphical keyboard is persistently maintained "while the input area remains and requires input."

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 6,094,197 to Buxton et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,736,973 to Godfrey et al. It is respectfully submitted that neither Godfrey et al. nor Buxton et al. disclose determining that input from a user is no longer needed and then removing a graphical keyboard without allowing for otherwise removing the graphical keyboard.

Godfrey et al. is directed towards an integrated backlight display system for a personal digital assistant (title). In Godfrey et al., an on-time control turns off power to the backlight driver circuit after a predetermined time has elapsed following activation of the on-off switch (Abstract). Godfrey et al. discloses that a PDA may have a touch sensitive screen by which to enter data and commands (col. 1, lines 19-24). Moreover, Godfrey et al. discloses that pressing alphabetical letters displayed on the touch screen to form words is somewhat cumbersome and impractical (col. 1, lines 27-29). In Godfrey et al., the screen backlighting system is incorporated into a PDA by placing the backlighter driver circuit where the stylus is normally stored (col. 4, lines 46-53).

Claim 1 requires "invoking an input area" and "invoking a graphical keyboard area incapable of user termination independent of termination of the input area, the graphical keyboard area having a plurality of keys on the display;" and "automatically terminating the graphical keyboard after the desired input is received in the input area." Neither Buxton et al. nor Godfrey et al. alone or in combination teaches these limitations.

In particular, the on-time control of Godfrey et al. is related to turning on and off the backlight driver circuit associated with a PDA. Godfrey et al. is not directed towards determining when a graphical keyboard should be displayed and when it should be terminated.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection must be withdrawn. As claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should also be withdrawn.

Similarly, with respect to claim 25, claim 25 requires "determining that input from the user using the graphical keyboard is needed within the input area; invoking the graphical keyboard on a touch screen display to receive input from the user, the graphical keyboard placed in a set position; persistently maintaining the graphical keyboard on the touch screen display such that the user cannot move, resize, remove, or close the graphical keyboard through the user interface while the input area remains and requires input; receiving input within the input area from the user through the graphical keyboard; determining that further input from the user is no longer needed in the input area; and removing the graphical keyboard." Neither Buxton et al. nor Godfrey et al. is directed towards the same type of invention nor does either reference disclose this manner of controlling the user interface.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should be withdrawn. As claims 26-26 depend from claim 25, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections should also be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,094,197 to Buxton et al. et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,736,973 to Godfrey et al. and in further view of Freedman (the computer desktop encyclopedia). It is respectfully submitted as these dependent claims depend from claim 1, and as neither Buxton et al. nor Godfrey et al. nor Freedman disclose each and every limitation of claim 1 that these rejections should also appropriately be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Please charge Deposit Account No. 26-0084 for the amount of \$385.00 for the Request for Continued Examination and the amount of \$55.00 for the one-month Extension of Time. No other fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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